മിസ്റ്റർ എസ്സ്. വെങ്കിടേശ്വരൻ: വലിയ പ്രയാസമില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. വി. ഇട്ടൂ: ലേലംവിളിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുന്നതല്ലേ കരാറു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ നല്ലതു"?

മിസ്റ്റർ എസ്സ്. വെങ്കിടേശ്വരൻ: ആ പ്രകാരം മറിച്ചു ശേഖരംചെയ്ത ലേലത്തിൽ വിൽക്കുന്നതാണു പതിവു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ: റിസർവ്വ്ഡ് ഫാറസ്റ്റിൽ എത്ര കണ്ടി മരങ്ങളോളം വീണു കിടപ്പുണ്ടു"?

മിസ്റ്റർ എസ്സ്. വെങ്കിടേശ്വരൻ: കണക്കു് ശരിക്കു് നോക്കിയിട്ടില്ല. ഉദ്ദേശം ൪ ൦ ൦ ൦ ൦ കണ്ടിയോളം വീണവയിൽ ശേഖരിക്കുവാൻ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കും.

Statement made by the President on the food situation

Mr. President: As I promised on the first day of this Session I propose to make a brief statement on the present food situation in the State.

During the recent Food Conference in Delhi at which I represented Travancore and Cochin, the Government of India were good enough at the opening of the Conference to afford me a special opportunity to describe in detail to the members representing all the Provinces and many of the States of India the serious food situation in these two States. I can assure the Hon'ble Members that our position is now understood and appreciated not only in Delhi and Madras, but by all the major administrations in India.

While I was in Delhi I obtained promises of rice from one administration in North India and of Bajra or Cumbu as it is called in South India from another. Subsequently the Government of India have arranged for further deliveries of rice from two other administrations and of further export of Bajra from a North Indian Province. That of course is in addition to the arrangements made previously. Also His Highness the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes kindly arranged to issue a circular to all the Member States appealing for assistance to Travancore and Cochin. I wish to thank His Highness for his gracious act.

The arrangements so far made to meet our deficiencies are still inadequate. Our best hope of securing adequate supplies is for the Government of India to assume control and ensure the equitable distribution of food grains throughout India based on the principle of equality of sacrifice. The political structure in India is not well suited to the adoption of unified control of food distribution, but so far as they find it feasible and possible within the existing frame work, the Government of India, who are keenly alive to our difficulties, are endeavouring to introduce measures which will result in relieving to some extent the present unsatisfactory situation which has left certain deficit areas faced with the prospect of semi-starvation. No deficit area has suffered so much on account of unequal distribution of the available foodgrains as the States of Travancore and Cochin. The success of the Government of India Scheme will depend mainly on the co-operation they receive from those provinces and States which are surplus and self-sufficient in food-grains. The all over deficit in food grains is so slight that if the surplus and self-sufficient administrations, considering the interests of India as a whole, all co-operate to the full in the Government of India food-grains procurement scheme, there is no reason why any part of India should suffer from serious shortage.

The all India position in regard to millets is much more satisfactory than the rice position. Hence the Government of India are arranging to send considerable quantities of Bajra or Cumbu to this State and to Travancore. Except in parts of the Chittur Taluk, the people in this State are not accustomed to eating this grain. I have directed the Commissioner of Civil Supplies to show this grain to the Hon'ble Members. It is nutritious, and a mixed rice and cumbu diet is undoubtedly better for health than a pure rice diet. Steps are being taken to make this known to the public and also to instruct them in the best ways of cooking the grain. The public has to realise that there may not be enough rice available between now and the next main harvest even to maintain the present meagre rice ration and that it is essential that they should accustom themselves to a mixed diet. Government propose as an initial step to introduce a mixed ration once a week which will be rice and tapioca or rice and ragi. Later on when the Cumbu arrives, this will also be included, and the number of mixed ration days may be increased if occassion demands. Tapioca will, for the present, also be available, as an unrationed commodity. Meanwhile in order to prevent smuggling of topioca out of the State and in order to ensure a sufficient supply to make up in some measure for the acute scarcity

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of rice, Government have issued a notification controlling the sale and movement of tapioca. Government will themselves purchase all tapioca not required by the growers for consumption.

Rationing has now been introduced everywhere except in the isolated Chittur Taluk where it will be brought into force in a few days time. Thanks to the general co-operation of the public and the good work done, in particular, by the school teachers, this country-wide rationing scheme has been successfully launched. The scheme in general is working smoothly. Grain purchase has also in general progressed satisfactorily. Many landlords and cultivators have shown their public spirit by co-operating willingly.

Vigorous action is being taken against profiteers, hoarders and smugglers. I may say for the information of the House that the number of prosecutions so far launched is far greater than that given today in answer to a question. The large number of prosecutions reveals the regrettable fact that there is still a certain number of people in the State prepared to exploit the difficult situation for their own illicit profit. The general public can do much to stop these practices, not only by reporting cases to the authorities, but also by socially ostracising these enemies of societies.

We are passing through an anxious period but I am confident that we will pull through. We rely on help from the Government of India and from administrations in other parts of the country more fortunately placed than ourselves. But we rely most of all on the whole hearted support and co-operation so willingly given by the vast majority of the people of the State and their leaders, prominent among whom are the Hon'ble Members of this House, who can do much in their constituencies to help the people to weather the storm.

Ruling on Point of order

I have also to give a ruling on a point of order raised yesterday with regard to the right of speech of Hon'ble Members at the third reading. I give the following ruling regarding the same. Under Standing Order No. 23 Hon'ble Members have got a right to speak on the motion when called upon by the President and this is in accordance with the practice prevailing here as well as elsewhere. But I may say that the speeches at the third reading may not be so elaborate as that of the second reading.

Announcement of the name of the Members elected to the Irrigation Board

Mr. President: I announce the nomination of Mr. Kunhirama Menon as being elected as a member to the Irrigation Board since his is the only nomination received.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT BILL

The Cochin Village Courts Bill—*(cont.)*

Clause 2

Mr. K. Narayana Monon *(Mulakunnathuakvu):* Sir, clause 2 as it stands reads thus.—"*All suits pending in the Village Panchayat Courts or Group Panchayat Courts at the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to have been instituted in the Village Court having jurisdiction under this Act, and all decrees passed by such Panchayat or Group Panchayat Court may be executed under the provisions hereinafter cantained relating to execution of decrees passed under this Act as if they were decrees passed by the respective village courts*". This clause is sought to be substituted by a new clause 2. The new clause is the following.—"*2(1) All suits and proceedings commenced in the Village Panchayat Courts or Group Panchayat Courts prior to the date of coming into force of this Act shall be continued and depend in the Village Court having jurisdiction under this Act as if they had commenced in such Village Court after such date.*

(2) All such decrees passed by the Panchayat or Group Panchayat Courts and all proeedings in respect of any decree or order passed by such courts may be executed or commenced in the respective Village Courts as if such decrees or orders were passed by the respective Village Courts.".

The amended clause seeks to divide the original clause which comprised both suits, decrees and executions in one and the same clause into two different sub-clauses. The first sub-clause relates to suits and proceedings and the second to decrees and executions. If this is not done it may sometimes lead to confusion. There is absolutely nothing new. I beg to move that the amendment may be accepted.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur North):* I second the amendment.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* May I know what is meant by the term 'depend in' in clause (1) of the amendment.

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